

JOHN P. PARKER HOUSE

300 Front Street, Ripley

A former slave, John Parker was one of many African-American conductors on the Underground Railroad, the means of escape for countless members of his race in the decades preceding the Civil War. His unflagging and heroic efforts to rescue escaped slaves from the “borderlands” along the Ohio River underscore the fact that African Americans were not only slaves and fugitives in these clandestine operations, but rescuers as well. Parker repeatedly slipped secretly back into slave territory to lead others to safety and freedom on the Ohio side of the river. He lived and operated an iron foundry at this site from ca. 1853 until his death in 1900.